

Missionary

The Whitby Missionary Conference

A most delightful and profitable time was spent by those who attended the Missionary Conference at Whitby, July 5th to 12th. The gathering was under the auspices of the "Young People's Forward Movement for Missions," which is international and inter-denominational in character. It works altogether through existing denominational Missionary Boards, and aims at helping them by supplying literature, organizing Conferences and Institutes for mission study, etc. The headquarters of this organization are in New York, but the work in Canada is supervised by a Board of seven men. Several leaders of the movement from the Head Office in New York were present at the Whitby Conference, including Mr. Michener, Mr. Soper, Mr. R. E. Diffendorfer. These bright, enthusiastic, devoted young men were a wonderful inspiration to the Conference. Each is an expert in the field of missions and those present received much information from them. Of course our own Dr. Stephenson was on hand and rendered valuable service as Secretary of the local committee. As might be expected there were more Methodist delegates than of any other denomination, but the Presbyterians were a close second, with a goodly number of Baptists and a few Congregationalists and Anglicans.

All the sessions were held in the Assembly and class rooms of the Ontario Ladies' College, and a charming resting place it proved to be. The spacious and beautiful grounds were looking their best and the young folks greatly appreciated the games of tennis and croquet in the afternoons which were given up to recreation, while the older people sat under

source and immense dishes of strawberries made a feast fit for a king.

The rising bell rang at half past six in the morning. Breakfast at 7.30, and then the forenoon was fairly packed with addresses, study classes, institute exercises, etc. After dinner, which was served at 12.30, everyone was left free to follow his or her own preferences for the afternoon. While many enjoyed the recreations, there were serious groups gathered here and there engaged in conversation or listening to a talk by one of the returned missionaries. The evenings were largely given to the New York speakers, who dealt with a number of interesting themes. Mr. Diffendorfer's addresses on "The Sunday-school and Missions" were specially suggestive and helpful.

Medical Missions

"The history of medical missions is the justification of medical missions." In view of the fact that healing was made so prominent in the Apostolic Church, we cannot but wonder at the extent to which, in the ages after the apostles, it dropped out of the Church's work. The Roman Catholics of the 16th and 17th centuries used medicine largely as an aid to mission work. It is to them chiefly that we owe the use of cinchona, which has rendered mission work possible in fever-stricken lands, as well as ipecacuanha and many other remedies which we probably should not have known so soon had it not been for their labors.

In all the heathen world the practice of medicine is marked by the densest superstition and characterized by the most extreme cruelties. Even the Chinese have no doctors worthy of the name; they have absolutely no reliable knowledge of ana-

water, and the patients are suffocated with charcoal fires. The Arabs resort with the greatest confidence to the most ridiculous, severe, or disgusting remedies. A slip of paper, containing certain written words, is swallowed with avidity; a man in the last stages of consumption takes a prescription directing him to feed, for a fortnight, upon the raw liver of a male camel, and fresh liver not being attainable, he continues the use of this diet in a putrid state until he dies; while the



MR. R. E. DIFFENDORFER

Arab's most common remedy for all diseases is the "ksi," or the burning of the skin entirely around the seat of pain, with a red-hot iron.

The benefits of medical missions may be well placed beyond computation in value. Some of these benefits are as follows: Medical missions are far-reaching in their results. As many as 1,200 to 1,400 towns have been represented in a single year among the in-patients of one hospital, who, returning to their homes, carry with them some of the truth received.

Medical mission work is lessening the anti-foreign feeling, is diminishing the power of superstition which connects disease with evil spirits, and is giving constant proof of the unselfish character of the Christian religion.

Medical mission work secures protection and provision.

Medical mission work destroys caste. In the waiting-room in India may be seen, day after day, men and women of all castes and creeds, waiting their turn to be examined, listening attentively to the reading of God's Word, and the preaching of the Gospel, thousands of whom otherwise would never have an opportunity of hearing the tidings of salvation.

Where a dispensary has been located a church has soon been formed.

In all foreign lands medical missions are becoming more popular and more powerful. The Christian physician is honored and welcomed always and anywhere in foreign fields; national and religious prejudices vanish before him, and in one year he can do what it would take another missionary many years to accomplish. Many who are studying thoughtfully the great problem of the evangelization of the nations agree that the consecrated medical missionary and the well-equipped hospital are important elements of success in the foreign field.

"He had only one Son and He gave Him to be a medical missionary," exclaimed Dr. Livingstone; and we recall the impressive fact that this Great Physician sent forth His first disciples to heal as well as to preach.—Encyclopedia of Missions.



THE DELEGATES TO THE WHITBY CONFERENCE ENJOY A DRIVE

the trees and chatted or dozed to their hearts' content.

Dr. and Mrs. Hare were the kindest and most thoughtful of hosts, and did everything in their power to make the stay of their guests enjoyable. The tables were supplied with the very best of good things, with great pitchers of fresh milk from the dairy on the premises. Large pitchers of real cream from the same

tomy, physiology, chemistry, physics, surgery, or of obstetrical practice, and their "doctors" often do more harm than good. The sick are often left to die on the streets and not even a drink of water is given to the wounded after a battle, who, if unable to drag themselves away, are abandoned to perish. In India charms and incantations are a common resort, the sick are dosed with putrid Ganges